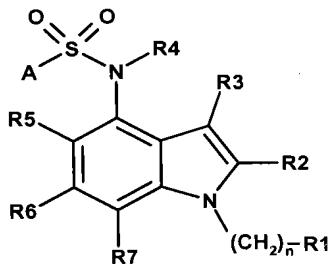


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may contain at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl; or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical

R⁴ is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical

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optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,

aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them, R^8 or R^9 , is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁-C₄ aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or

R^8 and R^9 together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkylene, an optionally at least mono-

~~substituted C₂-C₆-alkenylene or an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, which may be optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical a phenyl or napthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR¹²R¹³ radical, wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl; and~~

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a saturated or unsaturated optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched,

optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

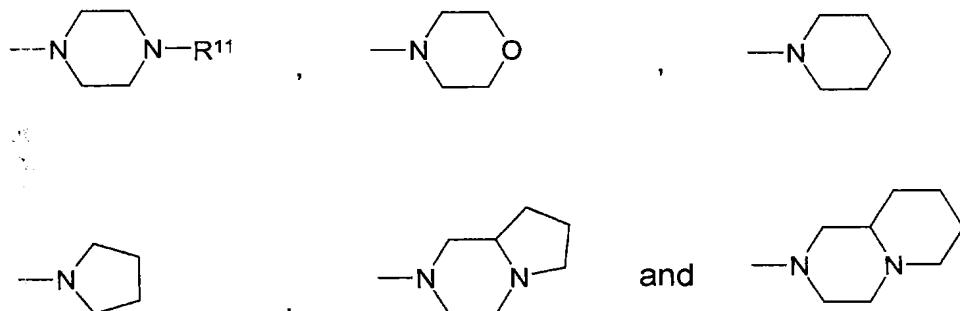
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl, or

R⁸ and R⁹ together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 5, wherein R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, or

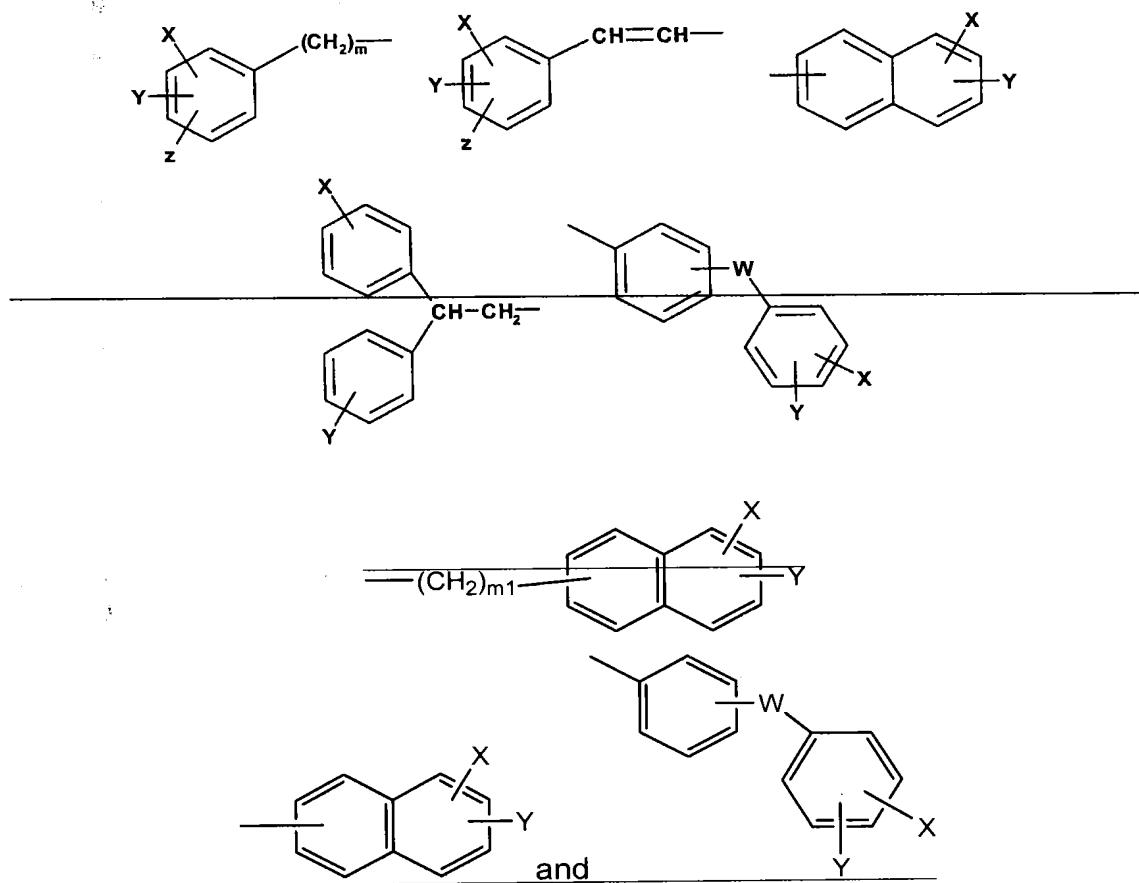
R^8 and R^9 together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein R^{11} , if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents ~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~

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wherein X, Y, Z, X and Y independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -NR¹²R¹³ radical,

wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

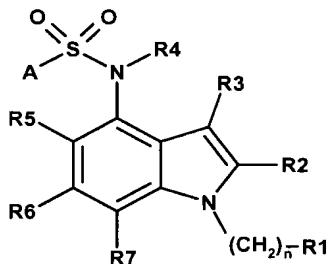
W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR¹⁴ radical,

wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

~~m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and~~

~~m1 is 1 or 2.~~

8. (Previously Presented) A sulfonamide compound of general formula



(Ib),

(Ib)

wherein

R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical,

R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical,

R⁴ is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or

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unsaturated, linear or branched, C₁₋₄ aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkyl, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkyl, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkoxy, linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR¹²R¹³ radical, wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_{1-C₆} alkyl, and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

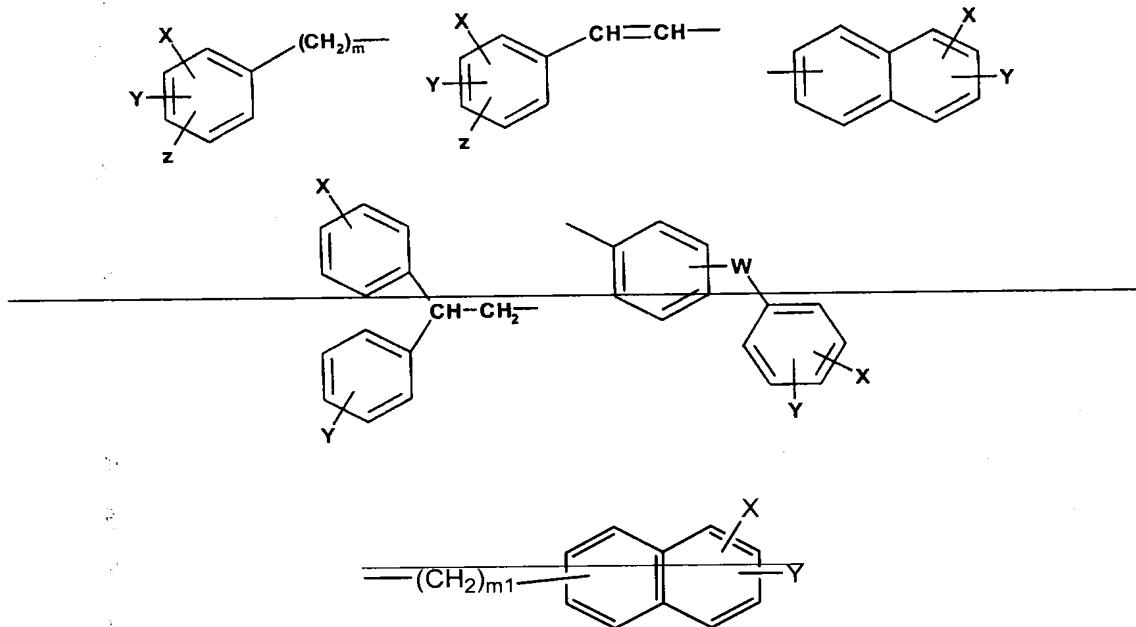
9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-C₆} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{2-C₆} alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{2-C₆} alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

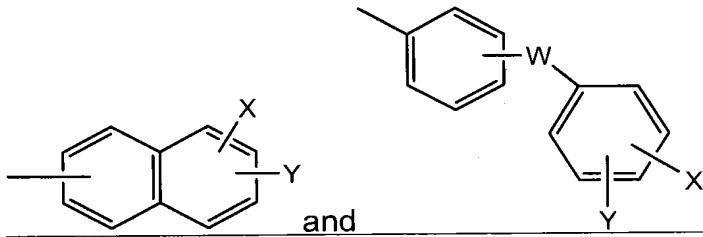
10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-C₆} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{2-C₆}

C₆ alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, C₁-C₄ alkyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8, wherein A represents A represents ~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~





wherein X, Y, Z, X and Y independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -NR¹²R¹³ radical,

wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR¹⁴ radical,

wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

~~m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and~~

~~m1 is 1 or 2.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8 selected from the group consisting of

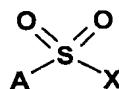
- [2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-2-sulfonamide,
- [3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-1-sulfonamide,
- [4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,
- [5] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-2-(naphthalene-1-yl)-

ethanesulfonamide,

- [6] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenoxybenzenesulfonamide,
- [7] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide,
- [8] 6-chloro-N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indol-4-yl]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide

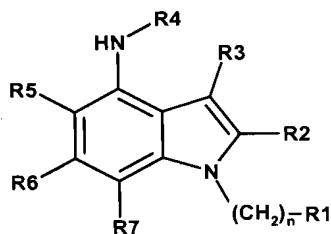
and their corresponding salts and solvates.

14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, wherein a compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein A has the meaning according to claim 1, and X is an acceptable leaving group, is reacted with at least one 4-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably protected derivatives;



(III)

wherein R¹-R⁷ and n have the meaning according to claim 1 to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, wherein R¹-R³, R⁵-R⁷, n and A have the meaning according to claim 1, and R⁴ represents C₁-C₆ alkyl, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein R¹-R³, R⁵-R⁷, n and A have the meaning according to claim 1, and R⁴ represents an hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.

16. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A process for preparing salts of the compounds of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to claim 1, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.

17. (Previously Presented d) A composition comprising least one compound according to claim 1 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 18-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 8 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 46-72 (Cancelled).